



UTAH  
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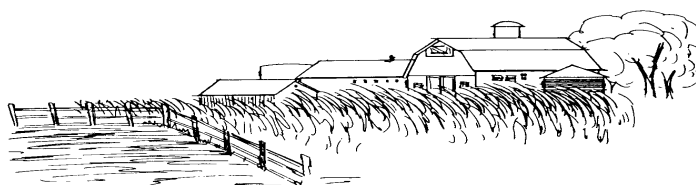
# News Release

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## Agriculture Prices

**Utah:** Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-December 2004, compared with November 2004, were down for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for November 2004 was \$98.00 per cwt, the same as December 2003. The November 2004 sheep price, at \$37.00 per cwt was \$1.00 below December 2003.

Barley, at \$1.97 per bushel, was down 42 cents from the previous month's price and 47 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$87.00 per ton, down \$5.00 from last month but the same as last year. Other hay, at \$83.00 per ton, was \$5.00 lower than last month but \$7.00 above December 2003.

**United States:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points below the November Index. The Crop Index is down 8 points (7.1 percent) from November while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, dairy, eggs, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, tobacco, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, grapes, and soybeans. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December 2003.

The Food Commodities Index decreased 4 points (3.3 percent) from last month to 118. The index is up 2 points (1.7 percent) from December 2003.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2004 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	98.00	98.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	97.70	101.00	( <sup>2</sup> )
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	38.00	37.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	45.10	41.50	( <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Crops</b>							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.44	2.39	1.97	2.93	2.51	2.46
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	87.00	92.00	87.00	87.00	94.00	92.40
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	76.00	88.00	83.00	66.50	67.80	67.10

<sup>1</sup> Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

<sup>2</sup> December data will be published next month.